

REMARKS

This document is in response to the Office Action mailed December 15, 2006. Claims 1-7, 9 and 17-25 are pending in the application and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gidumal, U.S. Patent No. 6,296,691. By this Amendment, claim 21 has been cancelled. Claims 1-7, 9, 17-20 and 22-25 are allowable over Gidumal as follows.

Claim 1 and dependent claims 2-7 recite an airflow guide enclosed in a housing, wherein the airflow guide projects from the housing in an air flow path created via rotation of one or more discs enclosed within the housing, in which the airflow guide comprises an elastomeric damping material, which is not taught nor suggested by Gidumal.

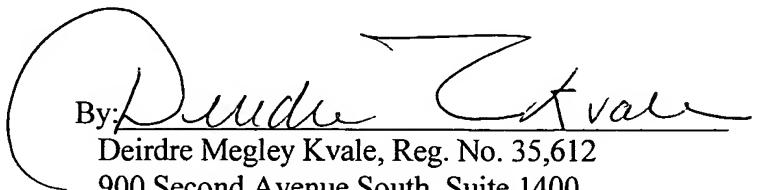
Claim 9 and dependent claims 17-20 and 22-25 recite an airflow guide that projects into a housing and comprises an elastomeric body forming a barrier surface in a fluid flow region which is not taught nor suggested by Gidumal.

New claims 26-28 are added for consideration and allowance. Favorable action with respect to new claims 26-28 is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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